

AD\_\_\_\_\_

Award Number: DAMD17-97-1-7274

TITLE: MUCI Facilitation of Growth in Chemically Induced Mammary  
Gland Tumors in Muc-1 Mutant and MUCI Transgenic Mice

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Sandra Gendler, Ph.D.

CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION: Mayo Foundation  
Rochester, Minnesota 55905

REPORT DATE: August 2000

TYPE OF REPORT: Final

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command  
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT: Approved for Public Release;  
Distribution Unlimited

The views, opinions and/or findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision unless so designated by other documentation.

20010330 080

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			Form Approved OMB No. 074-0188	
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503				
1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)	2. REPORT DATE August 2000	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Final (1 Aug 97 - 31 Jul 00)		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE MUCI Facilitation of Growth in Chemically Induced Mammary Gland Tumors in Muc-1 Mutant and MUCI Transgenic Mice		5. FUNDING NUMBERS DAMD17-97-1-7274		
6. AUTHOR(S) Sandra Gendler, Ph.D.				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Mayo Foundation Rochester, Minnesota 55905  E-MAIL: gendler.sandra@mayo.edu		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)  U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012		10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER		
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES  This report contains colored photos				
12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 Words)  Muc1 is a cell-associated mucin glycoprotein that is highly over-expressed in greater than 90% of mammary gland tumors. Our studies have focused on elucidating the effect of Muc1 on tumor development, metastasis, and immune function. Muc1-deficient mice were bred with mice expressing the c-neu protooncogene under control of the MMTV promoter to generate spontaneous mammary tumors. These mice developed unifocal tumors between 7 and 18 months of age. Tumor onset, progression, metastasis, and immune function were analyzed in the Muc1-deficient and Muc1-expressing mice. Tumors developed in 93% (51/55) Muc1 <sup>+/+</sup> mice and in 91% (51/56) of Muc1 <sup>-/-</sup> mice. Age of tumor onset was seven weeks lower for mice lacking Muc1, and these mice were 1.5-times as likely to have lung metastasis as Muc1 <sup>+/+</sup> mice. We found that the immune system of the Muc1-deficient mice was severely compromised, as both T cells and natural killer cells failed to be activated and dendritic cells were non-functional. Thus, the lack of Muc1 protein had a dramatic effect on tumor latency, metastasis and general immune competence. These results add a new dimension to the function of this important tumor antigen.				
14. SUBJECT TERMS Breast Cancer			15. NUMBER OF PAGES 19	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT Unclassified	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE Unclassified	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT Unclassified	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Unlimited	

## Table of Contents

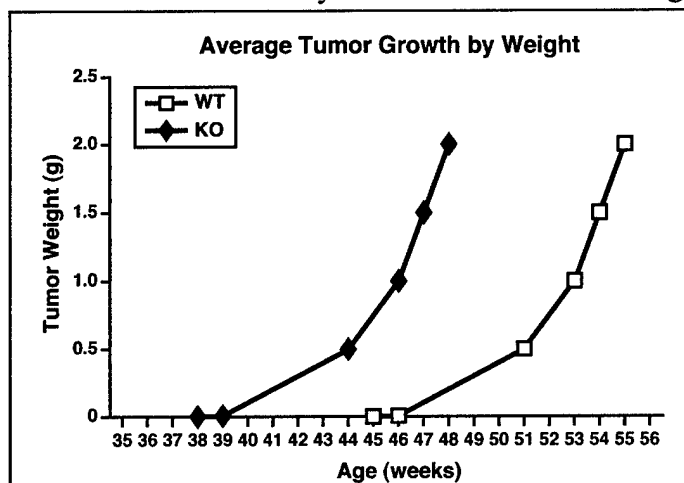
Cover.....	1
SF 298.....	2
Table of Contents.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Body.....	4
Key Research Accomplishments.....	15
Reportable Outcomes.....	15
Conclusions.....	16
References.....	17
Appendices.....	19

#### (4) Introduction

MUC1 is a cell-associated mucin glycoprotein that is highly over expressed in greater than 90% of mammary gland carcinomas. The high level of expression in carcinomas and metastatic lesions suggests an important role in tumor progression and metastasis. Our hypothesis is that MUC1 is a multi-functional protein and that several structural features contribute to its ability to modulate tumor progression and metastasis. These structural features include the large rodlike extracellular domain that extends far out from the cell surface and in all likelihood modulates the adhesiveness of cells (cell-cell and cell-matrix) and the vulnerability of the tumor cells to immune effector cells. The second structural feature of significance is the cytoplasmic tail domain that is phosphorylated and interacts with other phosphorylated proteins and with cytoplasmic proteins that may be involved in signal transduction. Our aims, as modified in the first annual report (August 1998), were to induce tumors in Muc1-deficient and wild type mice by mating them with mice carrying the unactivated c-neu protooncogene driven by the mouse mammary tumor virus long terminal repeat (MMTV- LTR). We further proposed to examine the effects of T cells and NK cells on tumor development and metastasis in these mice and to examine the characteristics of mammary tumor cells derived from the Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> and Muc1<sup>+/+</sup> mice.

#### (5) Body

In order to study the effect of the Muc1 gene on mammary tumor development and



**Fig 1. Age at onset of mammary tumors induced by the c-neu protooncogene is accelerated in mice lacking Muc1.** Error bars are not shown, as tumor onset is extremely variable in these mice, occurring from about 7 months until 18 months. Tumors were palpated weekly and tumor size determined by the formula weight (g) =  $(l \times w^2)/2$ .

progression, 56 female Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> and 55 Muc1<sup>+/+</sup> mice were enrolled in this study. All mice were virgin females positive for the c-neu protooncogene, which was transcriptionally regulated by the mouse mammary tumor virus long terminal repeat (MMTV-LTR) [1]. All mice were congenic with the FVB strain, the strain in which the MMTV-c-neu transgenic mice were generated, to eliminate the need to consider strain-specific effects from genes that modify tumor onset and progression [2]. Mice were monitored for tumor development until 78 weeks of age. Mammary gland tumors developed in 93% (51/55) of Muc1<sup>+/+</sup> (called WT) mice and in 91% (51/56) Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> (called KO). The average age of onset (defined as a tumor burden of 0.005 g size) of the mammary tumors in the Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice was 39 weeks compared with 46 weeks in Muc1<sup>+/+</sup> mice. This temporal difference was maintained in the times

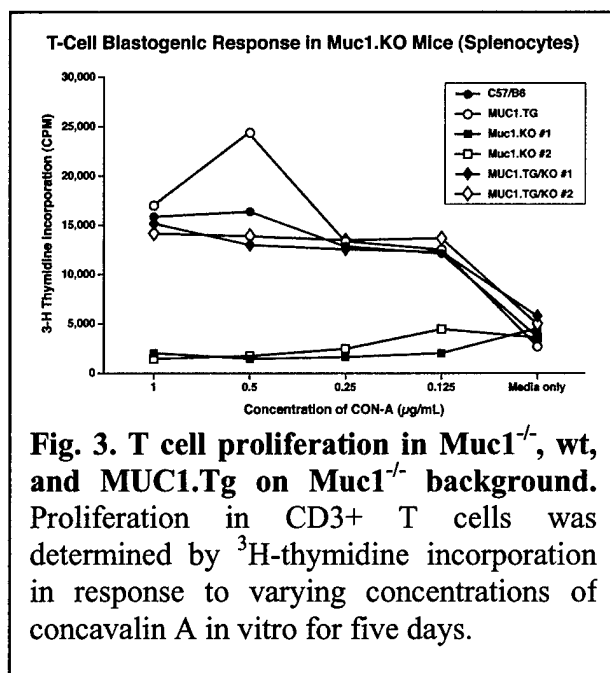
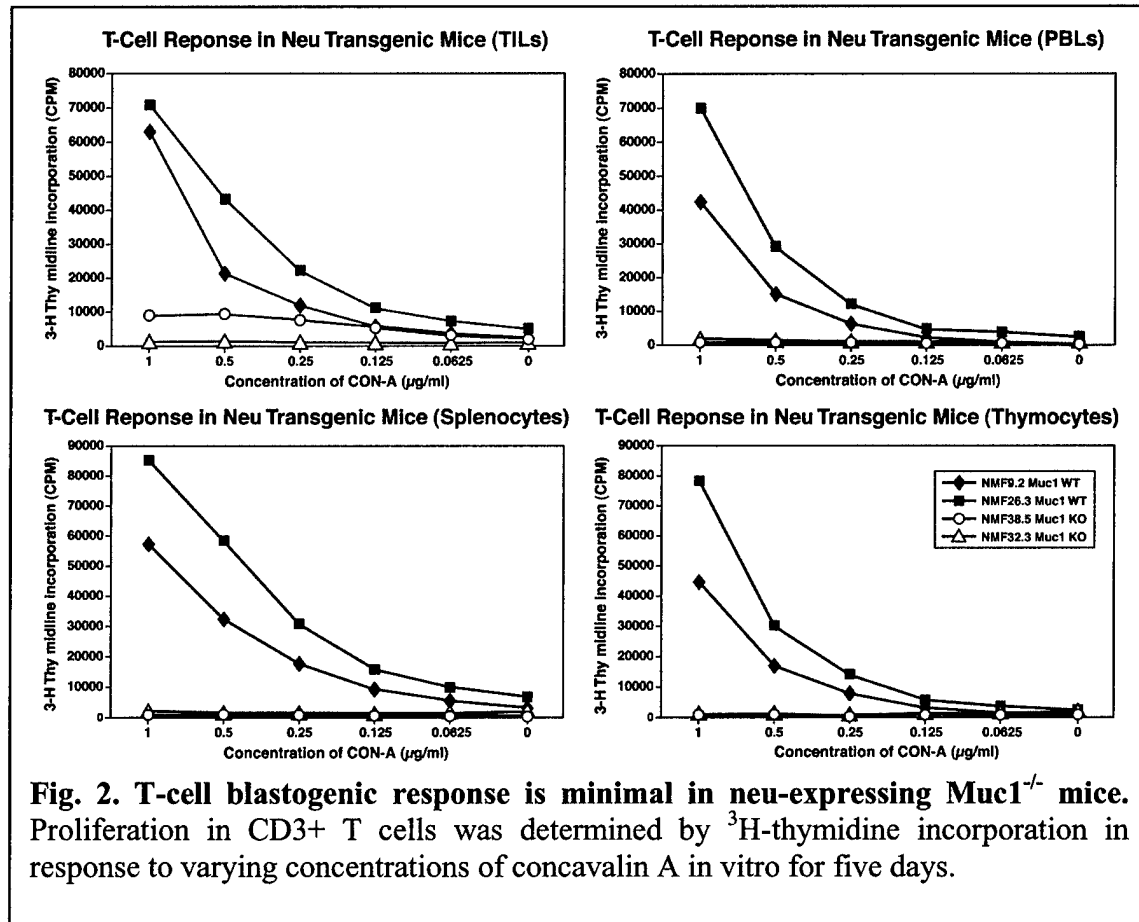
required to reach the 2 g size (48 weeks for  $Muc1^{-/-}$  mice and 55 weeks for  $Muc1^{+/+}$  mice ( $p = 0.08$  from the log-rank test) (Fig. 1). Although a  $p$  value of 0.08 is not considered highly significant, there is a definite trend for earlier onset of tumors in the  $Muc1$ -deficient mice. Since *c-neu* is a protooncogene and tumor development is reliant upon naturally occurring mutations, tumor onset is slow and highly variable. The highly variable onset of tumors makes it difficult to reach statistical significance, even using an  $n$  of 55 animals. Tumor progression correlates with the presence of activating mutations in the juxta-transmembrane region of Neu, resulting in constitutive dimerization of the Neu receptor [3]. The mean duration of observation was 7 weeks significantly shorter on average (95% CI = 2 to 13 weeks) for the KO mice than for the WT mice (KO group: mean = 55 weeks, SD = 14 weeks,  $N = 60$ . WT group: mean = 62 weeks, SD = 16 weeks,  $N = 56$ .  $P = 0.013$  from the two-sample  $t$  test). The mean age at sacrifice was also 7 weeks lower (95% CI = 1 to 13 weeks) for the KO mice than for the WT mice (KO group: mean = 55 weeks, SD = 14 weeks,  $N = 54$ . WT group: mean = 62 weeks, SD = 16 weeks,  $N = 54$ .  $P = 0.024$  from the two-sample  $t$  test).

The rate of tumor progression, once the tumor reached palpable size, was similar in both groups. The median time to progression from a palpable tumor (0.005 g) to 2.0g size was approximately equal between the two groups (Fig. 1. KO group: mean = 10.6 weeks, SD = 3.2 weeks,  $N = 50$ . WT group: mean = 11.0 weeks, SD = 4.7 weeks,  $N = 51$ ,  $P = 0.57$  from the two-sample  $t$  test). Within 95% confidence, the means of the two types differ by no more than 2 weeks (95% CI = -2.0 to 1.1 weeks). This similar growth rate was surprising, as we had shown previously, using a different mouse tumor model (MMTV-polyoma middle T antigen), that tumors in  $Muc1^{-/-}$  mice grew more slowly than tumors in  $Muc1^{+/+}$  mice. However, further analysis of the tumors that arose in the WT mice showed the  $Muc1$  expression had been down-regulated (discussed in greater detail below). Thus, the similar growth rates may occur because once tumors have formed,  $Muc1$  is not longer expressed in this particular tumor model.

The  $Muc1^{-/-}$  mice are 1.5 fold as likely to have lung metastasis than  $Muc1^{+/+}$  mice. However, the sample size was not large enough to make a conclusive comparison of the incidence of metastasis between the two groups. The sample incidence of metastasis was 38% (21/55) for the  $Muc1^{-/-}$  group versus 25% (13/53) for the WT group. The incidence was not statistically significant ( $P = 0.13$  from the chi-square test of homogeneity of proportions).

One possible interpretation of these results is that the immune system may have an effect on tumor progression at a time when the numbers of tumor cells were small, but once the tumors reached a sufficiently large size to be palpable, tumor proliferation overcame the capacity of the immune system to respond effectively. To determine the general immunocompetent state of the immune system in these two groups of mice, T cell blastogenesis assays were performed. Spleen, thymus, peripheral blood lymphocytes and tumor infiltrating lymphocytes were prepared and analyzed for  $^3H$ -thymidine incorporation following stimulation with a limiting dilution of Concanavalin A ((ConA) 1  $\mu$ g/ml down to 0.0625  $\mu$ g/ml) (Fig. 2). Whereas the T cells from the  $Muc1$ -expressing mice were fully capable of proliferating following a six-day stimulation with ConA, the T cells from the  $Muc1$ -deficient mice showed virtually no proliferation. Similar results were obtained when T cells were stimulated more specifically with antibodies for CD3 $\epsilon$  and CD28 (data not shown). Representative data for four animals is shown. Assays were

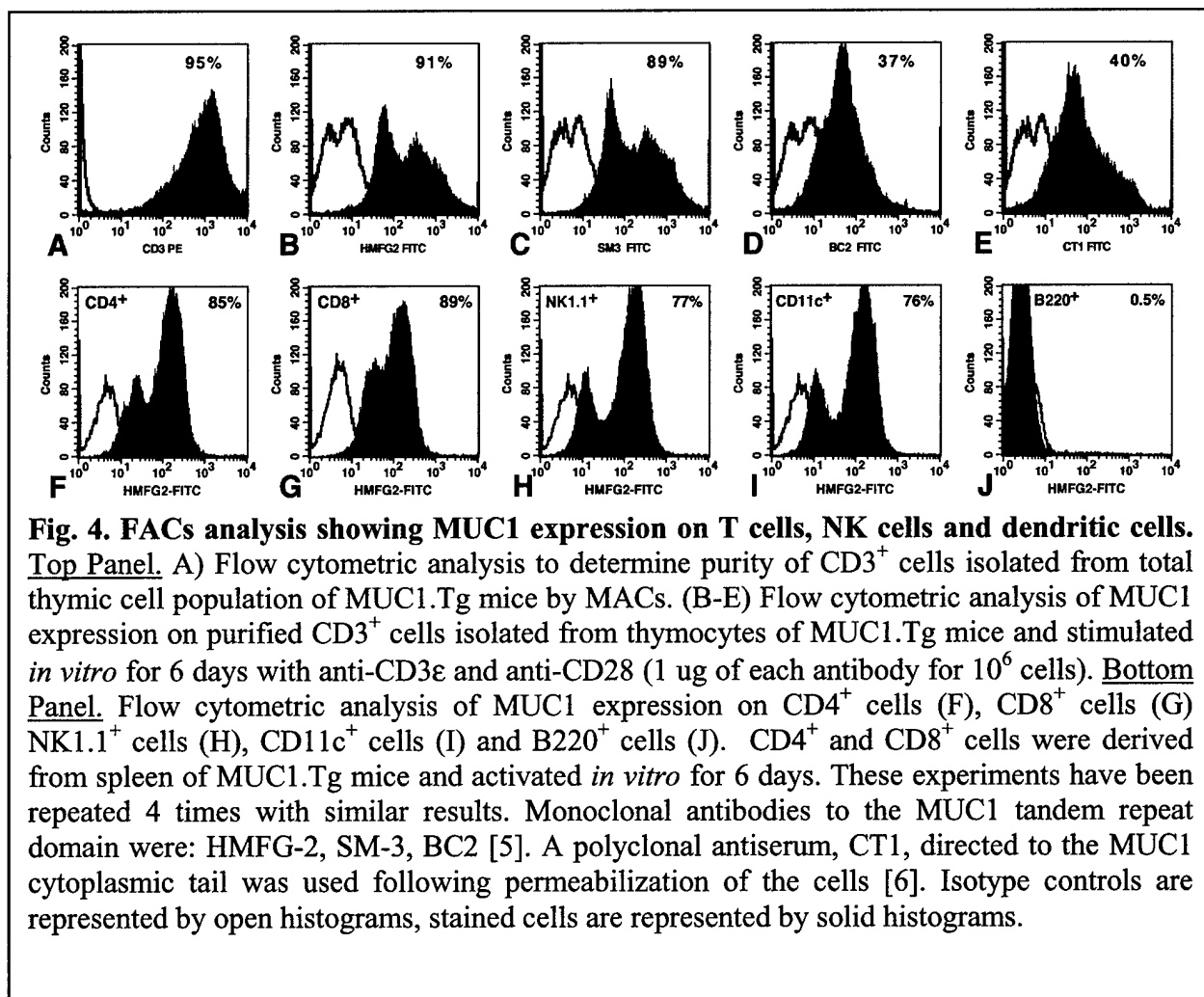
performed on 6 animals from each group ( $P < 0.001$  by unpaired two-sample t-test).



To determine that this effect was due to the lack of the  $Muc1$  gene and not to a mutation that occurred elsewhere in the genome during the generation of the  $Muc1^{-/-}$  animals, we tested proliferation in human MUC1 transgenic mice on the  $Muc1^{-/-}$  background. The MUC1 transgenic line of mice was created using a 10 kb piece of human DNA containing the entire human MUC1 gene using its own endogenous promoter (called MUC1.Tg). We have shown that expression is tissue specific and copy number-dependent, i.e., the transgenic mouse does not overexpress human MUC1, but rather expresses it in a physiological manner [4]. When T-cell blastogenesis was assayed in MUC1.Tg mice

on the Muc1-deficient background, the human MUC1 gene was found to compensate for the loss of mouse Muc1. Uptake of  $^3\text{H}$ -thymidine was observed in Muc1 $^{+/+}$  and in MUC1.Tg mice lacking mouse Muc1 but not in Muc1-deficient mice (Fig. 3).

Muc1 gene may be affecting hematopoietic cell lineages. We and others had recently detected Muc1 expression in activated T cells, NK cells, and dendritic cells. B cells failed to



express Muc1. Shown in figure 4 is Muc1 expression of FACS scan analyses using a variety of antibodies directed to Muc1. Results in the MUC1.Tg and WT mice have been confirmed by studies in humans, showing a similar pattern of reactivity [7-10].

The failure of the T cells from the Muc1-deficient mice to proliferate was a very surprising result. To more fully assess this phenotype, T cell development was examined. T cell development is characterized by sequential steps that can be easily defined by the expression of particular cell surface proteins. Most T cells develop in the thymus through an ordered maturation process, giving rise to mature T cells with antigen-specific T cell receptors (TCRs). The earliest immature T cells lack expression of CD4 or CD8 and are called double negative

(DN). DN thymocytes express the TCR signaling subunits TCR $\zeta$  and the CD3 chains, but remain negative for mature TCR until rearrangement of the TCR ( $\gamma, \delta, \beta$ ) genes begins. Rearrangement of the  $\beta$  chain allows the TCR $\beta$  chain to associate with the invariant  $\alpha$  chain to form a pre-TCR complex. Signaling through the pre-TCR allows the differentiation of DN cells to the CD4<sup>+</sup>CD8<sup>+</sup> (double positive [DP]) stage, where rearrangement of TCR $\alpha$  then leads to expression of the mature form of the  $\alpha\beta$ TCR. DP,  $\alpha\beta$ TCR<sup>+</sup> thymocytes undergo a number of TCR-mediated selection events and ultimately differentiate into either CD4<sup>+</sup> or CD8<sup>+</sup> mature single-positive (SP) T cells.

The size and the overall numbers of cells in the thymus, spleen and PBLs of Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice are not dramatically different from their age and sex matched wt control mice. However, FACs analysis of cell populations in the thymus revealed less than 5% CD4<sup>+</sup>/CD8<sup>+</sup> double positive (DP) population as compared to 76% in wt mice (Fig 5A). In absolute terms, we observed a dramatic decrease in the numbers of DP cells ( $10^7$  down to  $10^6$  cells) and a 10-fold increase in DN cells in mice that lack Muc1 (Table I). Though there is lack of proliferation in the splenic and peripheral blood lymphocytes, the percent and numbers of single positive (SP) CD8<sup>+</sup> or CD4<sup>+</sup> cells were not significantly altered in the Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice as compared to their wt counterparts (Fig 5B, C, and Table I). However, these cells expressed significantly lower levels of CD3 $\epsilon$ , CD3 $\zeta$  and TCR $\alpha\beta$  (spleen, Fig 5D; PBLs, Fig 5E). In addition, after TCR complex engagement, the SP CD8<sup>+</sup> and CD4<sup>+</sup> cells failed to express the early and late cell surface activation markers (CD69 and IL2R) (Fig 5F and G). Taken together, these data suggest a profound defect in T cell development and maturation.

**Table I. Total cell numbers in thymus and spleen of Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> and Muc1<sup>+/+</sup> mice.**

**Thymus**

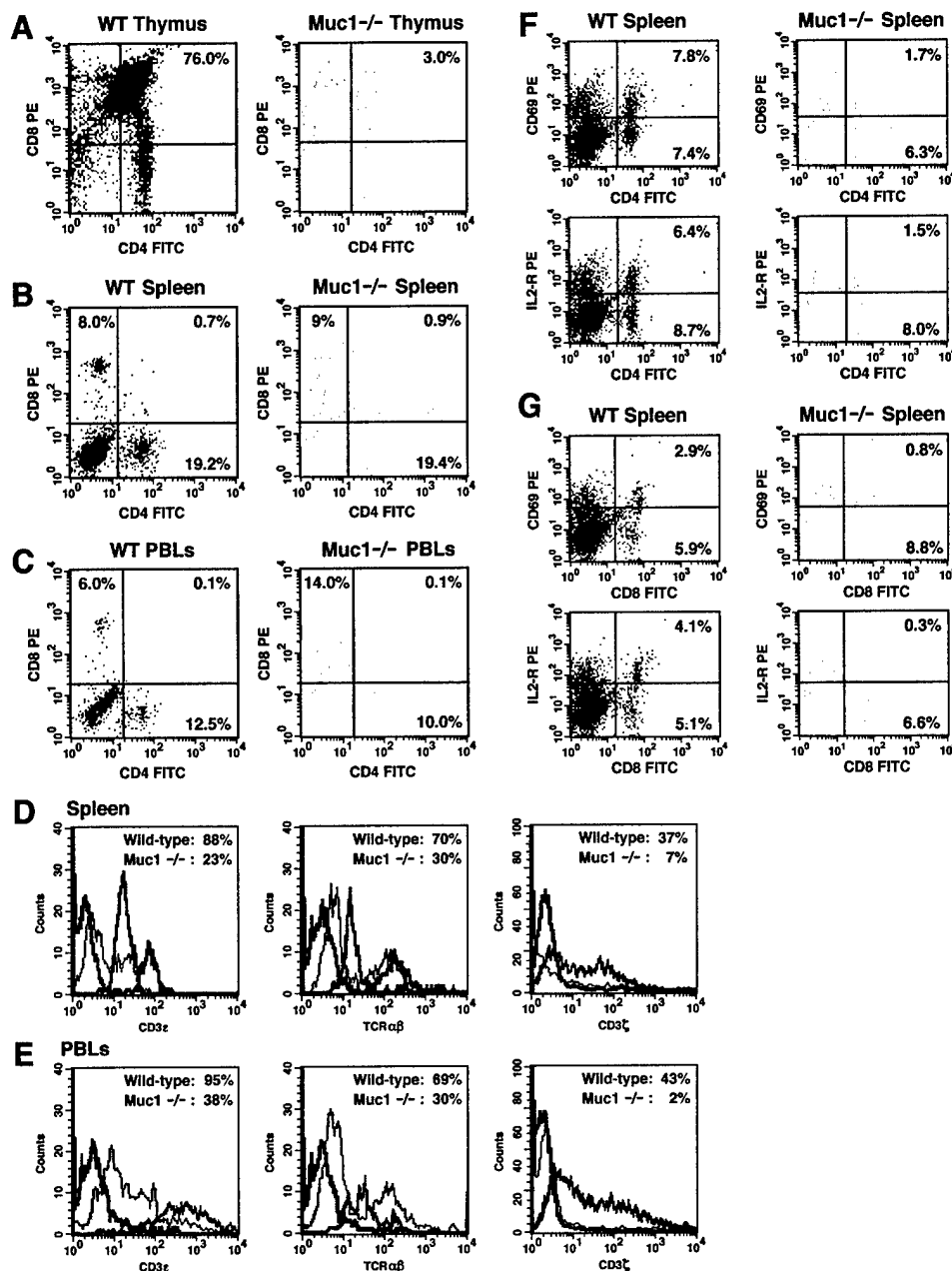
	Muc1 <sup>-/-</sup>	WT
Total cells	$1.7 \times 10^8 \pm 1.7 \times 10^7$ *	$2.3 \times 10^8 \pm 4.7 \times 10^7$
CD8	$1.1 \times 10^7 \pm 1.6 \times 10^6$	$1.1 \times 10^7 \pm 1.8 \times 10^6$
CD4	$1.6 \times 10^7 \pm 3.0 \times 10^6$	$1.1 \times 10^7 \pm 1.7 \times 10^6$
DP	$7.3 \times 10^5 \pm 1.7 \times 10^5$ **	$2.1 \times 10^8 \pm 7.0 \times 10^7$
DN	$1.4 \times 10^8 \pm 1.8 \times 10^7$ **	$1.1 \times 10^7 \pm 1.7 \times 10^6$

**Spleen**

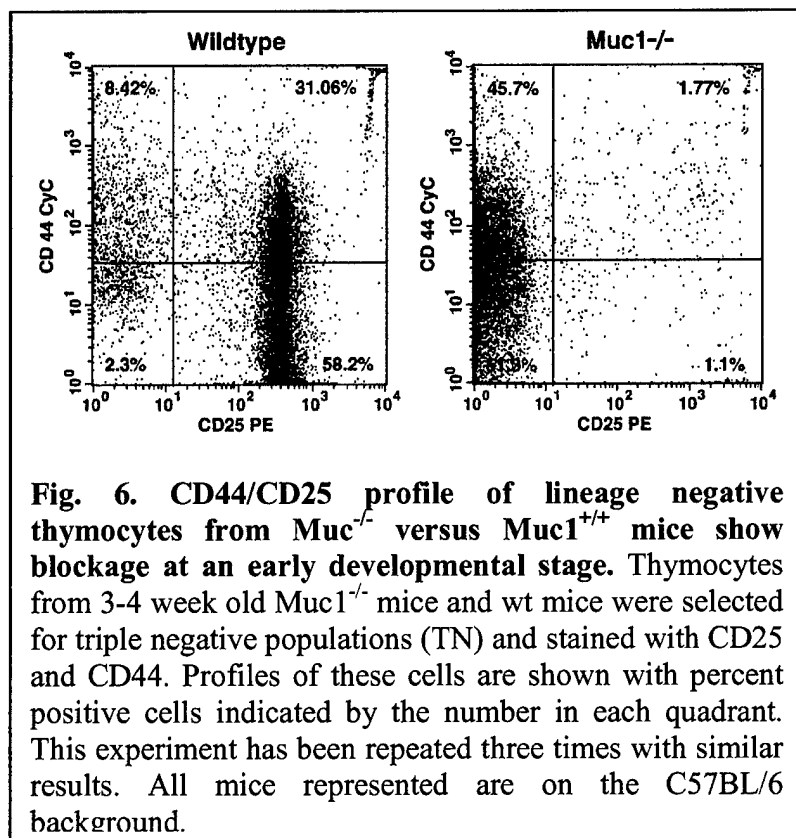
Total cells	$1.0 \times 10^8 \pm 2.5 \times 10^6$	$8.6 \times 10^7 \pm 7.8 \times 10^6$
CD8	$9.5 \times 10^6 \pm 6.5 \times 10^5$	$8.5 \times 10^6 \pm 9.6 \times 10^5$
CD4	$1.5 \times 10^7 \pm 8.5 \times 10^5$	$1.5 \times 10^7 \pm 4.7 \times 10^6$
DP	$9.5 \times 10^5 \pm 5.9 \times 10^4$	$7.6 \times 10^5 \pm 1.9 \times 10^5$
DN	$7.9 \times 10^7 \pm 8.9 \times 10^6$	$6.1 \times 10^7 \pm 1.2 \times 10^7$

Table I Legend. Thymocytes from 3 week old C57BL/6 mice were analyzed for their CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells by two-color flow cytometric analysis. Average and standard deviation of the meant for five mice/group is shown. \*p<0.005, \*\*p<0.001



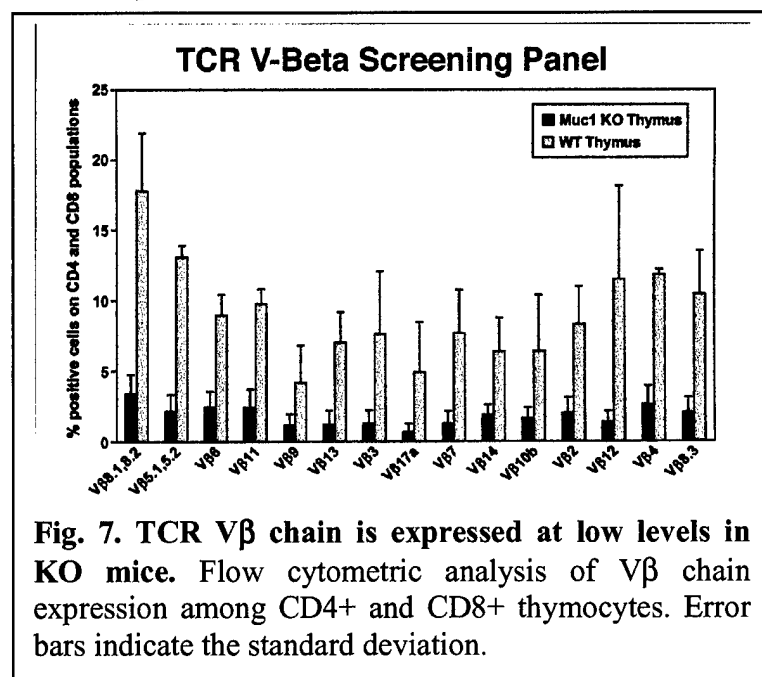


**Fig. 5. Flow cytometric analyses of lymphocytes show decreased double positive (DP) population and altered levels of T cell receptor components in *Muc1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice.** CD4/CD8 profile of thymocytes from 6 to 8 week old adult mice (A), splenocytes (B) and peripheral blood lymphocytes (PBLs) (C) were prepared, surface stained, and analyzed by standard flow cytometry. Panel A shows DP thymocytes make up 76% of the cell population in *Muc1*<sup>+/+</sup> mice, whereas in the *Muc1*<sup>-/-</sup> mice the DP population is only 3%. Single color staining for CD3ε, TCRαβ and CD3ζ profiles on T cells isolated from spleen (D) or peripheral blood lymphocytes (E) of wt (purple) versus *Muc1*<sup>-/-</sup> (yellow) mice versus isotype controls (black) shows alterations in CD3 and TCR levels. Expression of early and late activation markers, CD69 and IL2R on CD4<sup>+</sup> (F) or CD8<sup>+</sup> (G) splenic T cells activated *in vitro* for 24h. These experiments have been repeated 6 times with similar results. All mice represented are on the C57BL/6 background.



By examining the lineage negative population, we were able to determine more precisely at what stage of thymocyte development the block occurred in the Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice. Thymocytes lacking markers CD8, CD4, and CD3 were analyzed for the expression of CD44 and CD25, which define distinct immature T cell populations [11]. Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice showed a block at the most immature T cell stage, as most lineage negative thymocytes were CD44<sup>+</sup>CD25<sup>-</sup> (Fig 6). The block appears to be at the developmental step that requires expression and function of a competent pre-TCR signaling complex [12, 13]. The maturational arrest in Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice could be either due to a lack of TCR V $\beta$  chain

rearrangement and subsequent pre-TCR expression or defective signaling initiated by the pre-TCR complex.

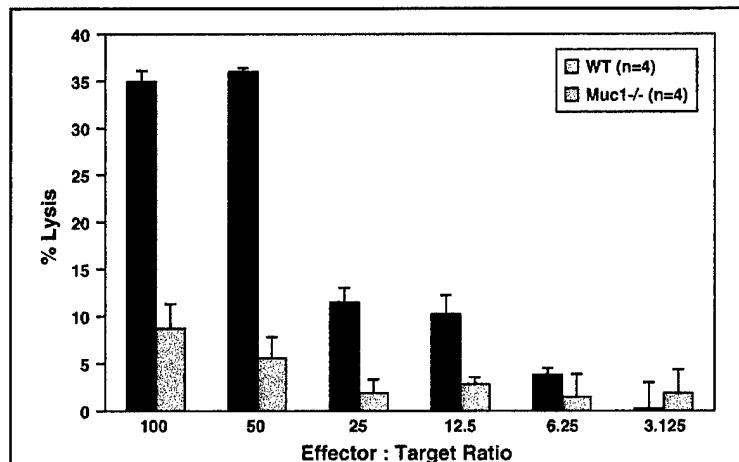


To determine if the immature thymocytes isolated from Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice had a defect in their TCR V $\beta$  chain gene segment rearrangements, we performed a FACS analysis using a panel of 15 TCR V $\beta$ -specific monoclonal antibodies. We detected a significantly lower percent of thymocytes isolated from Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice with TCR V $\beta$  expression as compared to their wt counterparts (Fig 7), suggestive of improper or incomplete rearrangements. Thus, the absence of Muc1 expression may affect the TCR V $\beta$  chain rearrangement and in turn affect the pre-TCR complex expression and maturational signals.

The ability of Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice to reject allogeneic tumors in the absence of a functional T cell immune response was analyzed by injecting Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> and wt mice with several allogeneic tumor cells. Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice on the FVB background were injected with B16 melanoma cells derived from C57BL/6 mice of a different haplotype, and Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice on the C57BL/6 background were injected with human breast cancer cell line, T47D. We found that the recipient mice rejected the tumors and remained tumor free (Table II). As expected, these same mice developed tumors when injected with tumor cells derived from mice with the same haplotype. Similar results have shown that mice that lack both CD4 and CD8 are capable of rejecting allogeneic tumors [14]. Nevertheless, these data suggest that Muc1 is not indispensable for allogeneic tumor rejection and that other immune regulatory mechanisms compensate for the lack of T cell responses.

**Table II. Muc1 KO mice reject allogeneic and human tumor cells.**

Recipient Strain	Donor	Tumors Formed
FVB Muc1 <sup>-/-</sup> (n=5)	C57BL/6 B16 melanoma cells (10 <sup>6</sup> cells/mouse)	No
C57BL/6 Muc1 <sup>-/-</sup> (n=5)	T47D human breast tumor cells (10 <sup>6</sup> cells/mouse)	No
C57BL/6 Muc1 <sup>-/-</sup> (n=5)	C57BL/6 B16 melanoma cells (10 <sup>6</sup> cells/mouse)	Yes



**Fig. 8. Lytic activity of NK cells is decreased in Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice.** FVB mice, both Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> and WT mice, were injected with allogeneic tumor cells three days prior to testing splenic NK cells for cytolytic activity against YAC cells. An average of 5 experiments is shown.

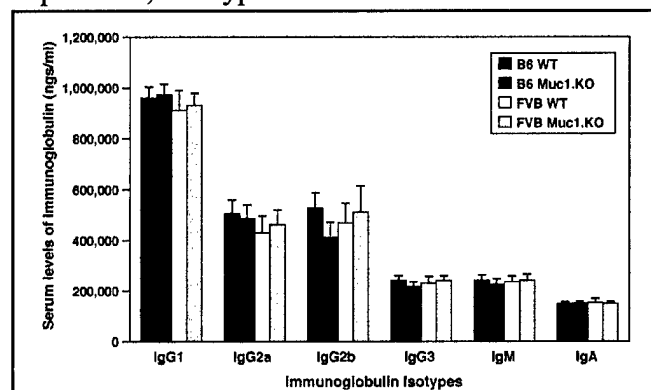
Given the observation that NK cells express Muc1, and that these cells may participate in the innate immune response against tumor cells *in vivo*, we tested the NK cell activity from these mice *in vitro*. We injected wt and Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice with allogeneic tumors three days prior to testing the lytic activity of NK cells against the target YAC cells. We observed that the NK cells isolated from Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice had significantly ( $p < 0.001$ ) lower lytic activity against YAC cells as compared to the wt mice (Fig 8). Although it is still unclear as to how Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice reject allogeneic tumors, these results show that lack of

Muc1 affects NK cell function *in vitro* and in turn the innate immune response in the Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice *in vivo*. More studies are needed to fully evaluate the activation of resting NK cells *in vivo* and some of these studies are presently under way.

Recent studies from other laboratories have suggested that dendritic cell (DC)-derived cytokines such as type I IFNs or IL-12 are essential in initiating the activation of resting NK cells, thus triggering NK cytolytic activity and  $\gamma$ -IFN production [15]. Because DCs are critical for NK as well as T cell functions [16] and because DCs express MUC1, we examined the functionality of DCs from the Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice. To generate DCs, we cultured bone marrow-derived mononuclear cells from Muc1 KO mice with GM-CSF and IL-4 and found that these cells did not survive in culture nor did they develop into functional DCs (data not shown). Therefore, lack of Muc1 not only alters T and NK cell function, but also affects differentiation and maturation of DCs from pluripotential stem cells.

The data presented here suggest that Muc1 plays an essential role at an early developmental branch point when lymphoid, myeloid and erythroid cell lineages are induced. It remains unclear in which compartment the absence of Muc1 affects this cell fate decision. Muc1-deficient lymphoid precursors could fail to respond to instructive signals within the stromal microenvironment of the bone marrow and/or fail to home to the thymus. Alternatively, these precursors may reach the thymus but may fail to activate one of the essential signal transduction pathways that lead to differentiation and maturation.

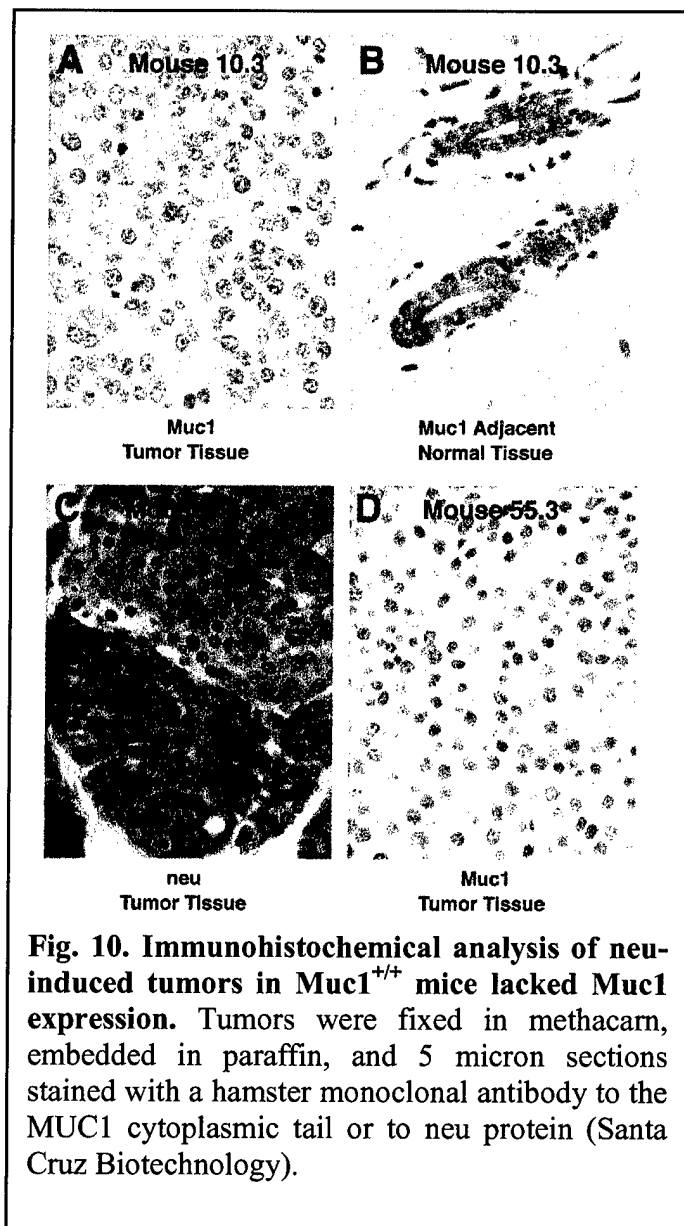
Given the observation that B cells from MUC1.Tg mice are negative for MUC1 expression, we hypothesized that B cell function would be least affected by lack of Muc1. B cells



**Fig. 9. Proliferation of B cells in Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> versus WT mice.** Mice were injected intraperitoneally with LPS. Serum was collected from four bleeds starting 3 days after the first injection and weekly thereafter and was analyzed for immunoglobulin isotypes by ELISA. Both C57BL/6 and FVB mice are represented. An average of 5 experiments is shown.

seemed to develop normally in the absence of Muc1, since normal B cell phenotype was observed in the Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice (data not shown). We also determined the proliferative capacity of B cells isolated from Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice in response to a polyclonal stimulus, lipopolysaccharide (LPS). No differences in the levels of immunoglobulin isotypes secreted from B cells (Fig 9) were observed between Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice and the wt control mice, demonstrating that the lack of Muc1 does not interfere with T-independent B cell function. T-dependent B cell functional studies are currently under investigation. All of our studies, with the exception of DCs, have examined the cells of the lymphoid lineage. Therefore, the characterization of cells from the myeloid and erythroid lineage is necessary and is underway.

Although the lack of a functional immune system in Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice could account for the earlier tumor onset and increased incidence of metastasis, it was difficult to explain the similar rate of tumor progression in Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> and Muc1<sup>+/+</sup> mice (Fig. 1). We had shown previously in MMTV-driven polyoma middle T antigen (MTag) mammary tumor mice that tumors lacking

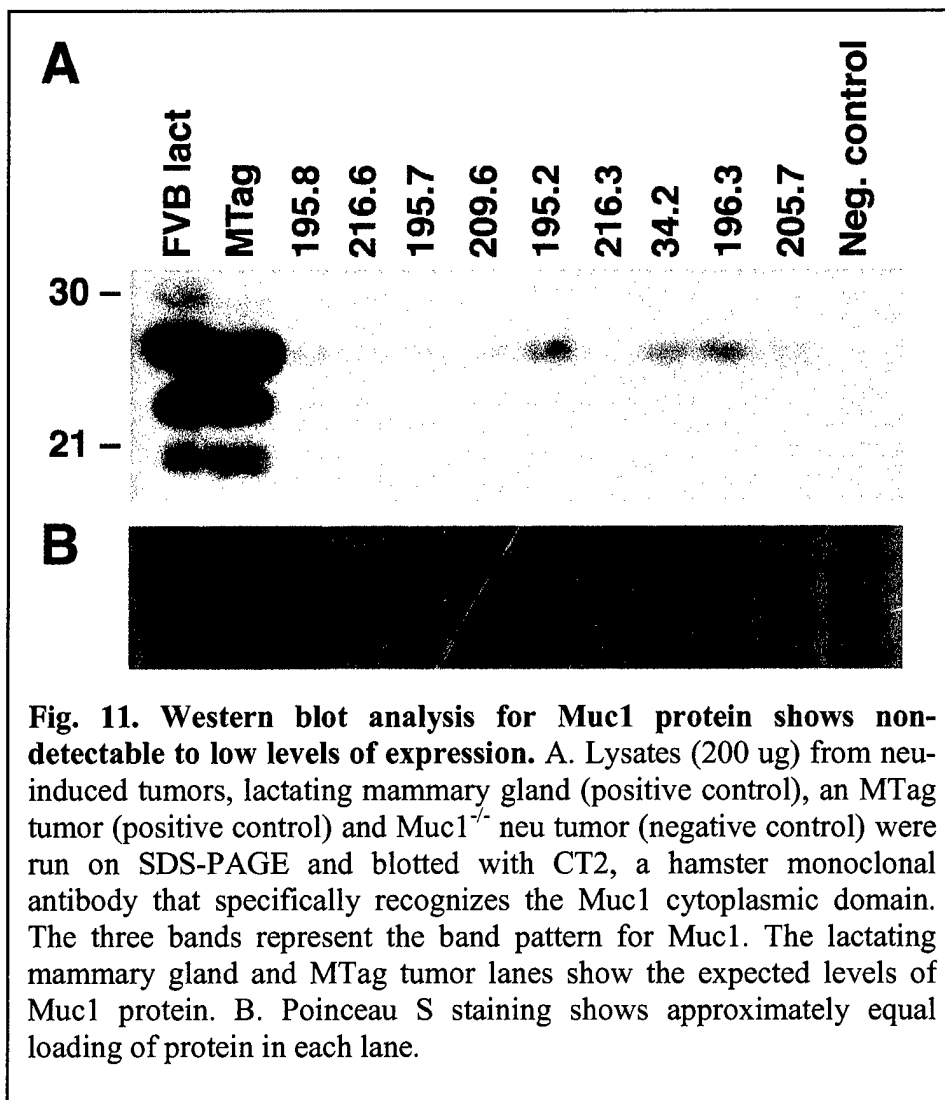


Muc1 grew more slowly than tumors expressing Muc1 [17]. However, our analysis of neu-induced tumors in Muc1<sup>+/+</sup> mice showed virtually no expression of Muc1 (Fig. 10A,D; Table III), although apparently normal mammary tissue around the tumors expressed Muc1 on the apical surfaces of ducts and glands at levels that would be expected (Fig. 10B). It appears that Muc1 protein was down-regulated in tumors expressing large amounts of neu protein. This result was surprising, as Muc1 has been found to be expressed in more than 90% of mammary tumors in both humans and mice [9, 17]. Tumors showed strong expression of neu protein by immunohistochemistry (Fig. 10C) and western blot analysis (data not shown). Western blot analysis using antibodies specific for Muc1 (CT2) and neu (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) confirmed the immuno-histochemical results (Fig. 11). Our hypothesis is that neu negatively regulates Muc1 expression in the neu tumors and that downmodulation of Muc1 expression gives the neu-expressing neoplastic cells a selective advantage during tumor evolution. Studies are underway to test this hypothesis. Interestingly, a discordant pattern of expression of MUC1 and erbB2/neu has also been noted in renal cell carcinomas in humans [18].

The lack of Muc1 expression in neu tumors in Muc1<sup>+/+</sup> mice made less relevant our previous plans to measure tumor cell binding to extracellular matrix components. Since the tumors in both groups of mice lacked Muc1 expression, it would be difficult to reach a definitive answer regarding Muc1 influence on cell-cell or cell-matrix binding.

Table III.

Immunohistochemistry	Muc1 <sup>+/+</sup> (n = 47)
Positive for Muc1 staining	3
Negative for Muc1 staining	44



## **(6) Key Research Accomplishments:**

c-neu-induced mammary gland tumors in Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice show:

- Seven week decrease in tumor latency (39 weeks vs. 46 weeks)
- Growth rate similar in Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> and Muc1<sup>+/+</sup> mice once tumors are of palpable size
- 1.5-fold increased risk of lung metastasis
- Severely compromised immune system
- Failure of T cells to proliferate in response to ConA or TCR stimulation
- Failure of NK cells to activate properly
- Failure of dendritic cells to form
  - T cell receptor expressed at extremely low levels on T cells
  - Thymocyte development arrested in CD4/CD8 double negative stage
- Human MUC1 transgene compensates for the deletion of mouse Muc1 gene in T cell proliferation assay

## **(7) Reportable Outcomes**

Manuscripts – none

Abstracts

Mukherjee, P., Canales, N., Sterner, C.J., and Gendler, S.J. Expression of MUC1 mucin on activated T-cells from human MUC1 transgenic mice (MUC1.Tg) : Implications in the development of breast cancer. *American Association for Cancer Research*, April, 1999.

Mukherjee, P., Madsen, C.S., Sterner, C. and Gendler, S.J. MUC1, a cell-associated mucin, is essential for normal functioning of the immune system. *Keystone Symposia: T Lymphocyte Activation, Differentiation and Death*, January, 2000.

Gendler, S.J., Mukherjee, P., Ginardi, A.R., Madsen, C., Sterner C., Adriance, M.C., Schroeder, J., Rowles, J. Canales, N., Reid, B., Thompson, M., and Hinojosa-Kurtzberg, M. Role of MUC1 in Tumor Progression and Immune Regulation. *Mucins in Health and Disease*, July, 2000.

Sterner, C., Mukherjee, P., Ginardi, A.R., Adriance, M., Hentz, J. and Gendler, S.J. Mammary tumors in Muc1 deficient mice show a significant decrease in tumor latency, increase in metastasis, and a defective immune system. *Mucins in Health and Disease*, July, 2000.

Mukherjee, P., Ginardi, A.R., Sterner, C.J. and Gendler, S.J. MUC1 plays a critical role in T cell activation and development. *Mucins in Health and Disease*, July, 2000.

Gendler, S.J., Sterner, C. and Mukherjee, P. Mammary tumors in Muc1-deficient mice show a significant decrease in tumor latency, an increased risk of metastasis, and a compromised immune system. *Era of Hope*, June, 2000.

#### Presentations

Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic, June 1999.  
Mammary Gland Biology Conference, Il Ciocco, Italy, May 2000.  
Sixth International Workshop on Carcinoma Associated Mucins, Cambridge, U.K., July 2000.

Patents/Licenses – none

Degrees obtained – none

Cell lines developed from Muc1<sup>+/+</sup> c-neu tumors and from Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> c-neu tumors.

Animal models – Muc1-deficient c-neu mice developed.

#### Funding Applied For

Source: NIH  
Investigator: Melissa Adriance  
Mentor: Dr. Sandra J. Gendler  
Title: Minority Predoctoral Fellowship Program  
Amount: \$17,900 first year  
Dates: 09/01/2000 – 08/31/2003

Source: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command  
Investigator: Melissa Adriance  
Mentor: Dr. Sandra J. Gendler  
Title: ErbB2 mediated downmodulation of Muc1 in the MMTV-c-neu transgenic mouse model of breast cancer  
Amount: \$22,000 first year  
Dates: 03/01/01 – 02/28/04

Employment Opportunities – none

#### (8) Conclusions

In summary, our studies have focused on elucidating the effect of the Muc1 mucin on tumor development and metastasis. We bred Muc1-deficient mice with mice expressing the c-neu protooncogene under control of the MMTV promoter to generate spontaneous mammary



tumors. Tumor onset in the Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice occurred seven weeks earlier than in Muc1<sup>+/+</sup> mice and progressed at equivalent rates to the 2 gram size ( $p = 0.08$ ). Risk of metastasis was about 1.5-fold higher in the Muc1-deficient mice. The early onset and increased incidence of metastasis in the Muc1 knockout mice suggested an immune system defect. We hypothesized that small numbers of tumor cells could be effectively eradicated by an effective immune system. However, once the tumor number reached a critical size, the immune system may be less effective. We found that immune function was severely compromised in Muc1-deficient neu mice. T cells from Muc1-deficient splenocytes or tumor infiltrating lymphocytes failed to proliferate following ConA or T cell receptor stimulation. Muc1-deficient mice also had defective NK cell killing activity and non-functional dendritic cells. These immune system defects could account for the early onset of tumors and increased metastasis in the Muc1<sup>-/-</sup> mice.

Muc1 protein is expressed at fairly high levels on T cells, NK cells, and DCs. Our results demonstrated that Muc1 is critically required for (i) the differentiation of DN to DP cells in the thymus, (ii) T cell proliferation in response to CD3 $\epsilon$  and TCR crosslinking, (iii) NK cell function, and (iv) DC maturation. In addition, we demonstrated that Muc1 is not indispensable for T cell-independent B cell responses and allogeneic tumor rejection. The profound perturbation of thymocyte development in Muc1-deficient mice underlines the crucial role of Muc1 in T cell ontogeny, because other mucins or proteins are unable to compensate for the absence of Muc1. The molecular consequences of the absence of Muc1 in lymphoid cells remain elusive. One can speculate a signal transduction role as an adaptor protein in T cell fate induction and/or differentiation and maturation of T cells in the thymus. Our evidence that Muc1 is phosphorylated and interacts with a number of T cell kinases supports this theory (unpublished data). While Muc1 is uniquely structured to act as a receptor, its ligand is presently unknown. The significance of a transmembrane protein with an extended mucin domain that is heavily O-glycosylated should be considered, as O-linked oligosaccharides are just beginning to be appreciated as signaling molecules [19, 20]. These structural features of Muc1 argue that it is involved in transmitting signals from the extracellular environment to the cell cytoplasm in both epithelial and non-epithelial cell types. Thus, the lack of Muc1 protein had a dramatic effect on tumor latency, metastasis and general immune competence. These results add a new dimension to the function of this important tumor antigen.

## (9) References

1. Guy, C. T., Webster, M. A., Schaller, M., Parsons, T. J., Cardiff, R. D., and Muller, W. J. Expression of the neu protooncogene in the mammary epithelium of transgenic mice induces metastatic disease. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 89: 10578-82, 1992.
2. Rowse, G. J., Ritland, S. R., and Gendler, S. J. Genetic Modulation Of Neu Proto-Oncogene-Induced Mammary Tumorigenesis. *Cancer Res*, 58: 2675-2679, 1998.
3. Siegel, P. M., Dankort, D. L., Hardy, W. R., and Muller, W. J. Novel activating mutations in the neu proto-oncogene involved in induction of mammary tumors. *Mol Cell Biol*, 14: 7068-77, 1994.

4. Rowse, G. J., Tempero, R. M., VanLith, M. L., Hollingsworth, M. A., and Gendler, S. J. Tolerance and immunity to MUC1 in a human MUC1 transgenic murine model. *Cancer Res*, 58: 315-321, 1998.
5. Price, M. R., Rye, P. D., Petrakou, E., *et al.* Summary report on the ISOBM TD-4 Workshop: analysis of 56 monoclonal antibodies against the MUC1 mucin. San Diego, Calif., November 17-23, 1996. *Tumour Biol*, 19: 1-20, 1998.
6. Pemberton, L., Taylor-Papadimitriou, J., and Gendler, S. J. Antibodies to the cytoplasmic domain of the MUC1 mucin show conservation throughout mammals. *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 185: 167-175, 1992.
7. Agrawal, B., Krantz, M. J., Parker, J., and Longenecker, B. M. Expression of Muc1 Mucin On Activated Human T Cells - Implications For a Role of Muc1 in Normal Immune Regulation. *Cancer Res*, 58: 4079-4081, 1998.
8. Hanisch, F. G. and Muller, S. MUC1: the polymorphic appearance of a human mucin. *Glycobiology*, 10: 439-49, 2000.
9. Zotter, S., Hageman, P. C., Lossnitzer, A., Mooi, W. J., and Hilgers, J. Tissue and tumor distribution of human polymorphic epithelial mucin. *Cancer Reviews*, 11-12: 55-101, 1988.
10. Treon, S. P., Mollick, J. A., Urashima, M., Teoh, G., Chauhan, D., Ogata, A., Raje, N., Hilgers, J. H. M., Nadler, L., Belch, A. R., Pilarski, L. M. and Anderson, K. C. Muc-1 core protein is expressed on multiple myeloma cells and is induced by dexamethasone. *Blood*, 93: 1287-98, 1999.
11. Godfrey, D. I., Kennedy, J., Mombaerts, P., Tonegawa, S., and Zlotnik, A. Onset of TCR-beta gene rearrangement and role of TCR-beta expression during CD3-CD4-CD8-thymocyte differentiation. *J Immunol*, 152: 4783-92, 1994.
12. Haks, M. C., Oosterwegel, M. A., Blom, B., Spits, H. M., and Kruisbeek, A. M. Cell-fate decisions in early T cell development: regulation by cytokine receptors and the pre-TCR. *Semin Immunol*, 11: 23-37, 1999.
13. Jacobs, H. Pre-TCR/CD3 and TCR/CD3 complexes: decamers with differential signalling properties? *Immunol Today*, 18: 565-9, 1997.
14. Penninger, J. M., Schilham, M. W., Timms, E., Wallace, V. A., and Mak, T. W. T cell repertoire and clonal deletion of Mtv superantigen-reactive T cells in mice lacking CD4 and CD8 molecules. *Eur J Immunol*, 25: 2115-8, 1995.
15. Fernandez, N. C., Lozier, A., Flament, C., Ricciardi-Castagnoli, P., Bellet, D., Suter, M., Perricaudet, M., Tursz, T., Maraskovsky, E. and Zitvogel, L. Dendritic cells directly trigger NK cell functions: cross-talk relevant in innate anti-tumor immune responses in vivo. *Nat Med*, 5: 405-11, 1999.
16. Cayeux, S., Richter, G., Becker, C., Pezzutto, A., Dorken, B., and Blankenstein, T. Direct and indirect T cell priming by dendritic cell vaccines. *Eur J Immunol*, 29: 225-34, 1999.
17. Spicer, A. P., Rowse, G. J., Lidner, T. K., and Gendler, S. J. Delayed mammary tumor progression in Muc-1 null mice. *J Biol Chem*, 270: 30093-101, 1995.
18. Kugler, A., Stuhler, G., Walden, P., Zoller, G., A., Z., Brossart, P. T., U., Ullrich, S., Muller, C. A., Becker, V., A.J., G., Hemmerlein, B., Kanz, L., G.A., M. and Ringert, R. H. Regression of human metastatic renal cell carcinoma after vaccination with tumor cell-dendritic cell hybrids. *Nature Medicine*, 6: 332-336, 2000.

19. Moloney, D. J., Panin, V. M., Johnston, S. H., Chen, J., Shao, L., Wilson, R., Wang, Y., Stanley, P., Irvine, K. D., Haltiwanger, R. S. and Vogt, T. F. Fringe is a glycosyltransferase that modifies Notch [see comments]. *Nature*, 406: 369-75, 2000.
20. Bruckner, K., Perez, L., Clausen, H., and Cohen, S. Glycosyltransferase activity of Fringe modulates Notch-Delta interactions. *Nature*, 406: 411-5, 2000.

#### **(10) Appendices**

None

#### **List of Personnel**

Christopher J. Sterner – Research Technologist  
Pinku Mukherjee, Ph.D. – Research Associate